

## **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 27, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on Monday, August 27, 2007 in Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

President Lesser called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

The following Commissioners were present for roll call:

President Lesser  
Vice President Duba  
Treasurer Creary  
Commissioner Davalos  
Commissioner Freeman  
Commissioner Jernigan  
Commissioner Rodriguez  
Commissioner Tanberg

Introduction of the audience followed.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 13, 2007**

On motion of Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Vice President Duba, and unanimously carried, with Treasurer Creary, President Lesser, and Commissioner abstaining, the Commission approved the minutes of August 13, 2007.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Lesser reported the following:

- Shared a book Beauty Bites Beast by Ellen Snortland, an advocate for women that fall prey to violence in their communities. She was invited and attended a gathering of people concerned about violence against women in Los Angeles County to work on a project to teach women self defense. Attendees included the parents of Torri Owens and the producer of America's Most Wanted. The meeting was arranged by Nelson Nio of Fox Network.
- Reviewed the Commission's Retreat outcomes and two items will be addressed later in the meeting. She also reminded Commissioners to follow the Guiding Principles to ensure meetings are more issue driven.
- She and Commissioner Rodriguez welcomed a delegation of women from the State of Kashmir, India that were interested in discussing women's issues. She will be following up with their questions and possible resources for their concerns of the high suicide rate and educated women in India.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Staff reported the following:

- Reminded Commissioners of the upcoming Pacific Asian Family Event on September 20, 2007 at the Gilmore Adobe. Commissioner's Davalos, Rodriguez, and ZeBrack will attend.
- Informed the Commission that a new digital recorder is being used to record the Commission meetings. This will allow staff to store the recordings on their computer.
- Shared a letter received from a tenant of Casa de Rosas Shelter. Staff has also been assisting tenants seeking a new shelter and have made referrals the Los Angeles County Adult Protective Services.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Creary reported on 2007-08 Fiscal Year expenditures and for the expendable allowance for the month of August 2007. The beginning balance as of August is \$36,560.15; expenditures were \$0.00; income was \$985.88; ending balance is \$37,546.03. The monthly allowance for September 2007 is \$5,743.38.

### **APPROVAL AND DISCUSSION OF CHANGES TO THE AWARDS (TRUST) FUND BUDGET CRITERIA AND SPENDING PLAN.**

Treasurer Creary reported that the Finance Committee met to discuss the proposed changes from the Retreat. These changes will affect Item 6 of the Awards Trust Fund Criteria and suggest changing the amount designated to the President's Fund from 25% of the total fund to \$5,000. Following discussion, on motion of Treasurer Creary, seconded by Vice President Duba, the Commission unanimously voted to change the amount designated to the President's Fund from 25% of the total fund to \$5,000. This change will be made in the Awards Trust Fund Criteria.

### **APPROVAL AND DISCUSSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN DRAFT BUDGET**

Treasurer Creary gave an overview of the proposed Commission for Women Budget. Following discussion on motion of Treasurer Creary, Seconded by Vice President Duba the Commission unanimously voted to accept the draft budget presented.

(Commissioner Pinedo arrived at 10:52 a.m.)

### **PRESENTATION FROM KIDSAVE**

Randi Thompson, CEO and Executive Director of Kidsave, provided a brief background of the organization and their purpose. Their goal is to transform the welfare system. They work to create change for older, overlooked children growing up without parents. They are hosting an upcoming luncheon on October 11, 2007 at the Beverly Hills Country Club. The event will honor Lee Woodruff and Jamie Lee Curtis with the *Voices for Change* Award honoring women who have stepped forward to help make miracles

for older, forgotten children growing up in orphanages and foster care. A Kidsave family will also be honored.

Ms. Thomspson is requesting the Commission to purchase a \$500 advertisement in the advocacy event program and also send "Save the Date" postcards and invitations to the Commission's mailing list. The Commissioners thanked and commended Ms. Thompson and her agency for their work.

#### **DISCUSSION TO AMEND THE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN'S STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES**

On motion of Commissioner Jernigan seconded by Treasurer Creary, with 5 ayes, 2 nays and Vice President Duba and Treasurer Creary abstaining, the motion passed to amend the meeting date in the Commission for Women's Statement of Procedures to the fourth Thursday of every month commencing in January 2008.

#### **DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL TO CANCEL THE COMMISSION'S SEPTEMBER 10, 2007 MEETING**

Following discussion, on Motion of Vice President Duba the Commission unanimously voted to cancel the Commission's September 10, 2007 meeting.

#### **APPROVAL TO PURCHASE UP TO 2 TICKETS FOR THE WOMEN AT WORK MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE LUNCHEON ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2007 AT THE WESTIN HOTEL**

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Davalos, seconded by Treasurer Creary, with Commissioner Rodriguez abstaining, the Commission voted to purchase up to (2) tickets for the Women at Work Medal of Excellence Luncheon. Clarification was requested from the Finance Committee regarding the difference between sponsoring an event and purchasing tickets to the event.

#### **APPROVAL OF LETTER OF APPRECIATION TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE FOOD POLICY CAMPAIGN SMART SNACKERS**

On motion of Commissioner Tanberg, seconded by Commissioner Freeman, the Commission voted to approve a Letter of Appreciation to the Los Angeles County Public Health Department for the food policy campaign *Smart Snackers*.

#### **APPROVAL OF LETTER TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGARDING THE KING HARBOR CLOSURE**

On motion of Commissioner Jernigan, seconded by Commissioner Tanberg, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding the King Harbor closure.

### **APPROVAL TO DONATE UP TO \$3,000 TO THE 2007 SISTERS STAYING HEALTHY CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 13, 2007**

On motion of Treasurer Creary seconded by Vice President Duba, with 5 ayes, 2 nays and 1 abstention the Commission voted to donate \$1,000 to the 2007 Sisters Staying Health Conference on November 13, 2007.

### **PRESENTATION ON THE LIFE OF ERNIE VAN LEEUWEN**

Vice President Duba introduced Nina Van Leeuwen and Philip Steinman. Philip Steinman, a professional film editor and personal friend of Mr. Van Leeuwen, presented a brief background on the accomplishments and records made by Ernie Van Leeuwen. Mr. Van Leeuwen was the oldest runner in the Los Angeles marathon for 13 years. He is currently directing a film about Ernie and two other runners with an exceptional story. (Commissioner ZeBrack arrived at 11:41 a.m.)

Additional information is available about Ernie and Mr. Steinman's film, *Journey to My L.A. Marathon*, on [www.journeytomylamarathon.com](http://www.journeytomylamarathon.com). He also showed a 5 minute DVD clip highlighting Ernie's last birthday. Nina Van Leeuwen thanked the Commission for recognizing Ernie's accomplishments by memorializing him.

### **UPDATE ON THE SECOND DISTRICT COMMUNITY MEETING**

Commissioner Jernigan reported that the Community Meeting will take place on September 24, 2007 from 5:00pm-8:00pm at the Junior Blind Foundation. She also reviewed the preliminary agenda which includes a panel of speakers on various health related subjects and free health screenings. Commissioner Jernigan thanked Renita Bowlin, Deputy 2<sup>nd</sup> District, and staff for their assistance.

### **UPDATE ON THE 5K RUN/WALK**

Vice President Duba distributed the Commissioner's duty list and also shared a picture of the t-shirt design. She attended the 7<sup>th</sup> week of free training at Griffith Park. She also attended the L.A. Roadrunners practice site and distributed 5K flyers. Vice President Duba met with Coach Pat Connelly and he is encouraging all the Roadrunners to participate in the 5K. Entries are coming in slowly and there are approximately 200 entries so far. Nike will be having there event on the same date and time as the Commissions 5K and Nike will be donating 200 pairs of youth running shoes.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Older Women's:** No report.

**Domestic Violence:** No report.

**Gender Equity:** Commissioner Davalos will email her report to staff for distribution. She reported that she left a message for the Lincoln Nebraska Commission and urged the Commission to read the email she sent regarding their issue and to send a personal letter of support of their Commission.

**Health Committee:** Commissioner Tanberg reported that the Committee met last week and is drafting a letter to support AB1559-Public Postsecondary Education: Community College Registered Nursing Programs

**Legislative Committee:** No report.

**Education Committee:** Commissioner Becerra-Jones reported that half of the 2007 scholarship recipients have accessed their funds and the remaining half will probably access them after school begins in September. She has also been calling the scholarship application partners to remind them to submit their applications.

**Media/Public Relations:** No report.

**Awards Luncheon Committee:** Commissioner Tanberg reported that the Committee met prior to the Commission meeting. They discussed raising the price of the luncheon tickets from to \$75.00 to \$85.00. Commissioner Davalos suggested raising the price to \$100. Commissioner Tanberg welcomes feedback or suggestions.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Geneviève Clavreul shared two letters she wrote to the editors of the Los Angeles Times and the Pasadena Star. She also is concerned with the millions of dollars still being spent at King Harbor on payroll for a 48 bed hospital. Ms. Clavreul commented that she is charged more money for dry cleaning than a male and she faces a weekly battle at her drycleaners.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Treasurer Creary attended the following:

- Dr. Arthur Johnson's funeral. Mr. Johnson was the first African American Chief of Staff at Cedar Sinai Medical Center. Services were held on August 25, 2007.
- Regalettes' Scholarship Fundraiser was held at the Rose Garden in Exposition Park on August 26, 2007.
- Auxiliary to the National Medical Association Convention on August 2-9, 2007 Sworn in as National President by Judge Morris Overstreet on August 9, 2007 in Austin, Texas.

**MATTERS NOT POSTED ON THE AGENDA (to be presented and placed on a future agenda):** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

**COMMISSIONERS**

Charlotte Lesser, President  
Reiko Duba, Vice President  
Treasurer Ruth Creary  
Karin Davalos  
Peggy Freeman  
Ruth Jernigan  
Michelle Pinedo  
Olivia Rodriguez  
Bobbi Jean Tanberg  
Elise ZeBrack

**EXCUSED**

Yolanda Becerra-Jones  
Wadie Gravely  
Janet Mummey, Esq.

**COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

Rhonda Rangel and Twila Kerr Executive Office  
Elaine Rodriguez, OAAC

**GUESTS**

Geneviève Clavreul